

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00256 031741Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 031515Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 1925

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0256 SECTION TWO OF TWO

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS : MARR, BA, US

SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE REASSURANCES REGARDING
FORCE ROLE

REFERENCE : STATE 46687

THROUGH PROPER CHANNELS WITHOUT EMBARRASSING AMIR WITH THIS
PROBLEM. FOREIGN MINISTER APPEARED TO GET THE POINT.

5. I ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER IF HE WOULD PRESENT OUR PROPOSED
LETTER, WITH ADDITION AUTHORIZED REFTEL, BEFORE CABINET ONCE
AGAIN FOR FURTHER REVIEW. IF CABINET FOUND OUR REASSURANCES
STILL UNSUITABLE FOR GOB PURPOSES, WOULD CABINET CARE TO
SUGGEST LANGUAGE WITH WHICH IT MIGHT BE MORE COMFORTABLE? I
REITERATED THAT USG FEELS IT HAS COME LONG WAY IN GOOD FAITH
MEETING GOB PROBLEMS IN MIDDLE EAST FORCE ISSUE, THAT WE ARE
DISTURBED BY THIS LAST-MINUTE OBSTACLE, AND THAT I PERSONALLY
WOULD APPRECIATE FOREIGN MINISTER TRYING AGAIN WITH CABINET
(INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER) TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT TIDYING UP OF
THIS LAST, RELATIVELY "MINOR", ASPECT WOULD NOT SPOIL THE
EXCELLENT ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH WE APPREARED TO HAVE BEEN
CONCLUDING THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

6. FOREIGN MINISTER PROMISED THAT CABINET WOULD REVIEW ENTIRE
QUESTION OF REASSURANCES AGAIN AND THAT HE WOULD BE BACK IN
TOUCH.

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7. COMMENT: THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT GOB REQUEST

FOR "CLARIFICATION" OUR REASSURANCES CAME FROM CABINET WITH PRIME MINISTER'S APPROVAL. I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER DECISION TO SEEK CLARIFICATIONS WAS CASUALLY TAKEN, SINCE GOB IS UNDER CONSIDERABLE WORKLOAD PRESSURES IN ITS EFFORT TO FUNCTION AS CABINET. THERE IS NO QUESTION NOW, HOWEVER, THAT GOB CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH USG REGARDS QUESTION OF "CLARIFICATION" AND THAT THIS ISSUE WILL NOW BE RECONSIDERED IN EARNEST AND WITH CARE IN CABINET. END COMMENT.

8. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH PASS THIS MESSAGE TO SECDEF, CNO, JCS, CINCUSNAVEUR AND COMIDEASTFOR
TWINAM

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Message Attributes

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